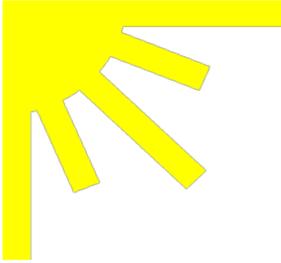


Ebenezer
Today, Tomorrow and Beyond
Monthly Newsletter for Ebenezer United Methodist Church
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Carl's Corner....

Dear Friends,

Each year we conduct a Church Assessment. Until this year, it was a paper form. This year it was an online form. Each congregation in the parish had a team work on the assessment. The findings were very similar. One thing that stood out for me was that the Mission seemed to have stalled. The mission is the "Why" we do what we do. If you know WHY you do something the other questions like WHAT and HOW follow quickly.

In some churches a team of people work for many hours developing a mission statement. I have seen a lot of hard work go into them. Unfortunately, they are put in a file. When asked, do you have a mission statement? The response is, "Yes, we worked on that really hard a few years ago - it's around here somewhere." A mission statement is short and clear. For example, the mission of the United States Army is, "to fight and win the Nation's wars." As a retired Army officer, I will remember that mission statement until I die. Church mission statements can stall.

The mission of the Prairie Winds Parish is "**to do the work of Jesus.**" If we are going to do something and it doesn't connect with the work of Jesus, then someone else should be doing it. The purpose of the Universal Church and every local church is to carry on the work that Jesus did while he was on earth. We look to the Great Commission in Matthew 28:19-20 "19Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to

the very end of the age." We also look at the Great Commandment, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' [a] 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Lastly, I would have you look at Acts 2:42 42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.

As you can see there are many ways to do the work of Jesus, but the mission remains the same. Now that we know the why, let's get busy with the what and the how of the ministry of Jesus.

Blessings,
Pastor Carl

Ebenezer Church Council

The next meeting for Ebenezer Church Council is **Monday, April 8th**, at 7 p.m. Church Council is open to all who would like to attend.

Ebenezer Ladies Lunch

All ladies of Ebenezer are invited to enjoy lunch and conversation on **Friday, April 12th at 11:30 a.m.** – at a location TBD. Please let Linda Bristow know if you plan to attend. Future lunches will be the 2nd Friday of each month. For more information talk with Christy or Linda.



Easter Egg Hunt

On **Saturday, April 13th**, Ebenezer will host an Easter Egg Hunt for all children ages 2 through 5th grade. The festivities will begin at 10 a.m. We hope you will join us and bring a friend or two with you to share in the fun!

Maundy Thursday Service

The Parish will gather at the Atlanta United Methodist Church on Thursday, **April 18th, at 7 p.m.** for a Maundy Thursday Communion Service. Maundy comes to us from the Latin, "mandatum". It is the root of our English word, "mandate" or "command". Jesus said in John 13:34 ³⁴ "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another." Bring a friend and share this special service of worship.

Good Friday Service

On **April 19th, at 7 pm** both Atlanta and Hopedale will have a community Good Friday Service. Both communities are having a "Tenebrae" (TEN-A-BRAY) service. This goes back to the 12th century. We will focus on the suffering of Christ for us and our salvation. Lights will be diminished as the service progresses. Tenebrae means "shadows," and so the worship will include an experience of some of the shadows that Christ endured." Very moving and powerful. Bring someone with you. At Atlanta Christian Church and in Hopedale at the Living Hope Community Church. Pastor Carl will participate in Atlanta. Next year he will be in Hopedale.



Ladies Aid Easter Bake Sale

Ebenezer Ladies Aid will hold their annual Easter Bake Sale on **Saturday, April 20th**, at the Mt. Hope – Funks Grove Library in McLean from 9 a.m. until all items are sold. April 20th will be here before you know it so start your baking early.

Easter Fellowship Breakfast

Easter fellowship breakfast will be prepared by Ladies Aid and served on **Sunday, April 21st**, beginning at **8:30 a.m.** with worship following at 9:30 a.m.

Easter Service

On **April 21st**, we will celebrate the RESURRECTION OF JESUS FROM THE DEAD. Bring a friend with you because of the victory of Jesus over sin, death, hell and the Devil. This day is the reason for our Christian Hope. It is also why from now on the third Sunday of the Month is going to be **"Bring a Friend to Church Sunday"** across the Parish.

Ebenezer's Weekly Attendance

March 2019

Date	Adults	Children
3	29	1
10	25	1
17	25	0
24	27	1
31		

Three months gone

Since we have had some "Snow Sundays" this quarter, please check your giving records. Your generous support is appreciated.

Easter Devotionals

Pick up your copy of "There Is A Redeemer" with 10 Easter Reflections from Our Daily Bread. The new Easter Devotionals are located on the literature table at the front of the church. There are also new Upper Rooms and Daily Bread Devotionals.

Upcoming Events in the area.....



Cunningham Children's Home 15th Annual Festival of Quilts

Celebrating a tradition that offers warmth, comfort and hope for every child.

Friday and Saturday, April 5-6, 2019, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
each day.

Cunningham Spiritual Life Center is located at 1301 N
Cunningham Ave., Urbana, IL.



Pork Chop Meal

McLean American Legion Post #573 Pork Chop meal, Saturday, April 13th from 4-7 p.m. at the legion post located at the corner of Spencer and N. East streets in McLean. Carry-outs will be available.

Public is welcome and building is handicapped accessible.

Evangelism for Non-Evangelists

Dr. Mark Teasdale, Associate Professor of Evangelism at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and author of "Evangelism for Non-Evangelists" will present a full day workshop on Evangelism on **Saturday, May 4th** from 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Cost is \$10 and includes lunch. Seminar will be held at the Morton U.M.C., 420 N Tennessee St., Morton, IL. This event is sponsored by the Illinois River District, Sangamon River District, Spoon River District, IGRC Committee on Evangelism and IGRC Congregational Development.

Registration deadline is April 26.



Graduates??

It's getting to be that time when graduates will be walking down the aisle. Do you have a graduate in your family? If so, send me their name, school and if it's from 8th Grade, High School or College. Then we will recognize them in our next issue of our newsletter.

Why Pray?

We pray because we follow Jesus' example. He prayed for 4 reasons:

First, He prayed to know the Father more intimately. In Mark 1:35 "Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where He prayed." We can do no less. We draw apart to seek God's face not just His hand.

Secondly, Jesus prayed to know the Father's will. In Luke 6:12 he withdrew and prayed all night to choose His disciples the next day. In Luke 4:42 He went off to pray to discern where He was to preach next. We best do as He did.

Thirdly, Jesus prayed to receive power to do the will of God. In Luke 3:21 as He was praying the heavens were opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him.

Likewise, we pray to receive power to do God's will.
(Luke 11:13)

Fourth, Jesus prayed to persevere in doing God's will and work. He prayed on the Mount of Olives to gain the courage to finish His mission. He told us, "Be always on the watch and pray you may be able to escape all that is about to happen..." (Luke 21:36) He is our example; therefore, we must follow Him in praying.

Therefore, we pray and teach others to do the same.
Amen.

Dr. Terry Teykl

Renewal Ministries & Prayer Point Press